

· · Sep. 14, 2007 3:40PM MacPherson, Kwok, Chen & Heid
App. Ser. No. 10/813,304
Amendment dated Sept. 14, 2007
Reply to Office action of Jun. 14, 2007

No. 1409 P. 6
Docket No. AB-17US US
RECEIVED (Ref. No. OPP030744 US)
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The following remarks are in reply to the Office action of 06/14/2007. In light of this reply, reconsideration and further examination of this application are respectfully requested.

Twenty-seven claims were pending in this application. In the above amendment, 12 claims (7-13, 18 and 24-27), previously withdrawn from consideration in response to a restriction/election requirement, were cancelled, one claim (1) was amended and none was added. Accordingly, 15 claims (1-6, 14-17 and 19-23) are now presented for reconsideration and further examination.

In section 5 of the Office action, claims 1-3, 14 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeda et al., US 7,224,421 (Takeda).

In light of the remarks that follow, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 14 both include the following distinguishing limitation:

"... a protrusion formed directly on at least a portion of the first passivation layer ..."

However, Takeda in fact teaches directly away from such a structure. In particular, Takeda teaches forming the protrusions 314 directly on a gate insulating layer 40 (Takeda, Figs. 52, 53D; col. 33, lines 60-67, col. 34, lines 1-3), or alternatively, forming one of the protrusions 20B on the gate insulating layer 40 and the other on a "transparent electrode 13" (Takeda, Fig. 69B), and then forming a "passivation film 331" over one of the two protrusions. (Takeda, Fig. 53G; col. 34, lines 8, 9.) The "first passivation layer (protect layer 43)" referred to by the Examiner is, in fact, merely an "insulating film 43," not a "passivation film 331." (*Id.*, col. 23, line 21.)

Since the latter structure above is diametrically opposite to the above-quoted limitations of independent claims 1 and 14, it is respectfully submitted that the above rejection in view of Takeda is untenable and should be withdrawn.

In section 6 of the Office action, claims 4-6 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeda et al., above, in view of Kim et al., US 2002/0163604 A1 (Kim).

In section 7, claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeda et al., in view of Kim et al., and further in view of Nonaka et al., US 6,897,918 B1 (Nonaka).

Sep. 14, 2007 3:40PM MacPherson, Kwok, Chen & Heid
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Docket No. AB-1'03 US
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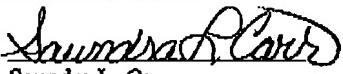
However, a thorough review of both Kim and Nonaka reveals that neither reference supplies any of the deficiencies in teaching of Takeda discussed above *vis-à-vis* independent claims 1 and 14, from which claims 4-6, 15-17, 19 and 20 respectively depend. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these latter claims are likewise patentably distinct over the proposed combination of Takeda, Kim and Nonaka.

In light of the above reply, it is respectfully submitted that now-pending claims 1-6, 14-17 and 19-23 are allowable over the art of record. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If there are any questions regarding this Reply, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Certification of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.


Saundra L. Carr

Sept. 14, 2007
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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